

R571.26
W842
can.

Stories of Pioneer Days
at
Killarney



Published by the Women's Institute of Killarney

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Reference Department

Shelf Number

R971.26

Canad

W842

This Book is not to be taken out of
the room

Stories of Pioneer Days

at

Killarney

Compliments of the
Killarney
man



Women's Institute

Published by the Women's Institute of Killarney

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Preface.

With the view of preserving as much as possible, the pioneer history of our Province, the Manitoba Women's Institutes have been asked to collect incidents and facts from the lives and recollections of the earliest settlers in each of our districts.

In complying with this request, the Killarney W. I., has been able, with the kind help of several pioneers, to secure the following papers, which make up this little pamphlet.

We sincerely hope it will be found interesting to the present generation and to the generations to come, a link between them and their pioneering parents.

Committee in Charge:

MRS. W. LYONS,
MRS. A. C. SHEPHERD,
MRS. C. G. LAWRENCE,

Officers of the W. I., the year this pamphlet was published.

President, Mrs. J. G. McGregor.

1st Vice., Mrs. C. G. Lawrence

2nd Vice, Mrs. W. Dunn

3rd Vice, Mrs. J. Smeaton.

Secretary, Mrs. H. Cross

Treasurer, Mrs. W. Lyons

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

JUL 30 1934

copi

A Few Notes on Early Days in Killarney

BY T. J. LAWLOR

KILLARNEY is one of the beauty spots of Southern Manitoba, situated about twelve miles North of the Boundary line, and between Ninga on the West and Holmfied on the East. The original name was Oak Lake, probably so called from the oak trees found around its shores. The present name was the result of a conversation jokingly carried on between three pioneers, one of whom was the late John Sidney O'Brien, Land Guide, and which ended by one party saying to Mr. O'Brien, "I suppose you would like to call it 'Killarney', after the lakes in Ireland," so, Killarney it has been ever since. That would be in about 1882.

The Municipality of Turtle Mountain was first mooted in 1882, but was not fully organized until the next year, when John Hyman was made the first Reeve and J. R. Sturt, the first Secretary-Treasurer. Many of the old settlers will remember the always welcome visits of Mr. Sturt, and how he walked countless miles in the discharge of his duties. The Municipality then included Townships 1 to 3 in Ranges 17, 18 and 19, but was enlarged in later years to include territory to the north and east.

Late in 1883, the C. P. R. ran a branch from Rosenfelt to Manitou, which was the end of the track until 1885. That fall the road was continued west and south of lakes Rock, Louise, Lorne and Pelican, passing through Killarney in December and reaching Boissevain January 1st, 1886. At that date, the road was taken over from the contractors, and opened for traffic.

Canadian and United States investors had obtained a charter, known as the Manitoba South-Western Railway. The route, starting from Winnipeg, proceeding westward, a few miles north of Carman, then turning south west and running north of the first three lakes previously mentioned, following the valley of the Pembina, and coming out of the prairie at Tisdale. The survey continued westward to the Haight, or Rowland district, about north of Ninga. The town of Tisdale was surveyed and lots were sold, but the railroad is not built yet. Between 1882 and the fall of 1885, the C. P. R. acquired the charter, and instead of building north of the Lakes, they continued their Rosenfeldt—Manitou branch, via La Riviere, Crystal City, Killarney and Boissevain. It was extended to Deloraine in 1885 and that remained the end of the road for several years.

The country comprising Townships 1 and 2 in Ranges 16, 17 and 18 did not receive as many early settlers as Ranges 19 to Deloraine, on

account of the broken character of the land. The Townships referred to only began to be settled in 1881 and 1882.

On January 2nd, 1886, T. J. Lawlor arrived at Killarney station with a car load of general merchandise and building material. In the meantime, he had arranged to have his store in Tisdale taken down and brought over to the new town.

The Land Commissioner gave him information as to the exact location of the C. P. R. Station, and from there, he located his lots on the North East of South Railway and Broadway avenue, and other buildings following the same direction, the town grew North and South instead of East and West.

The location of the Lake, within half a mile of the track, was an inducement for people to seek homes in the town. Our first settlers were drawn from the several settled portions of the country, as far east as Emerson, Gretna and Morris.

Mr. Mills, of Gretna, was the first carpenter on the scene, and with the lumber of the Tisdale store, and a supply brought from Rosenfeldt, he proceeded to erect the first building on the townsite for T. J. Lawlor in January 1886. Later in the month the C. P. R. townsite surveyors arrived and surveyed the first part of the town. Section 2 of Township 3 and Range 17 had been homesteaded and pre-empted by George Geates, on the north half and John Williams on the south half. They entered into arrangements with the C. P. R., to have the town site and station on Section 2. Both homesteaders retained a western portion of their lands which was not included in the town site.

James McCann, who had previously been in Nelsonville and Morden, secured lots on the East side of Broadway, and built the Leland Hotel, which is still in use. Following him were the Coleman Bros., William and Richard, Samuel Rowe, A. Wilson, Samuel Pierce, T. G. Dixon and Jas. Harrison. The Grand Central Hotel, built and conducted by Alex Goldie, of Gretna, came next, in the summer of '86. Other proprietors were P. MacCabe, F. Rollins, Coleman and MacMillan, Bascomb, from Chicago, James Fowlie, Watson & Comba, Worby and Scotty Ross. This hotel was burned down in 1916. Mrs. John Melville has conducted a public boarding house on Williams avenue since the beginning of the town. Other private boarding houses were conducted by Mrs. Duffy, on South Railway street, Mrs. Wm. Cooney, Mrs. Ed. Hall and Miss Midford.

Next to Mrs. Duffy's on Railway street was a store built by Frank Rollins, who previous to that time had a store down by the Bay.

The next business place was a hardware store, whose proprietor, Mr. Bird came from Emerson. Others who followed were A. Ashdown,

Chris Godfrey, T. Liddle, and the present B. T. Lawrence. Other hardware men were W. T. Philips, Binns Bros., J. Shannon, Jas. McNaughton, W. F. Ramsay & Son and W. C. Cooney & Sons.

Then followed a building put up for Dr. Fawcett, where he ran a drug-store and occupied the upstairs as a dwelling. Other druggists were John Williams, R. Olver and Olver & Carson. W. J. Carson still continues in the same business. Later came Dr. J. T. Whyte, P. D. Evans and W. H. Richards.

The late Wm. Pritchard, who supplied the railroad contractors with meat and vegetables came to settle in the town in the summer of '86. He built the place known as Pritchard's Hall, the first floor of which was used as a butcher shop. On the rear of the lots he placed a small dwelling. He was the first to buy and ship cattle and produce by the railroad. His brother, the late Joseph Pritchard was his successor. Other butchers following were Harvey Coleman, W. S. Hopkins, D. Laird and W. C. Simpson.

George Robinson had a store immediately south of Pritchard's Hall. Next to him were Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Wallis who had at first opened a small store at the north side of the lake. F. Kirkpatrick retired from the business, and H. A. Wallis opened a Real Estate, Insurance and Collection Agency. He built a cottage near the present Town Hall and also the Middleton Bakery Block.

Early in 1886, J. W. Smaill also started a Real Estate, Insurance and Collection agency, and built a home on Williams avenue, which he still occupies.

One of the first doctors who visited Killarney occasionally, was Dr. Pinkerton, of Clearwater. Others who followed were, Messrs Harris, Carter, Noble, Patterson, Whyte, Alexander, McKee, Little, Duxbury and Best.

R. T. MacLean from Pilot Mound was the first lawyer. Thomas Metcalfe, of Boissevain, had a branch office in charge of George B. Monteith, law student, who upon qualifying, took over the practice, and continued until he sold out to F. A. Williams. A. G. Hay, now of Virden, also practiced here several years.

Soon after the town was started, the government arranged for a County Court district, and sessions were held at intervals, Judges Ardagh, Pendergrast and Prudomme preceded Corbet Lock, who held office for many years. Chas. Bate, John Williams and David Hysop were our first Justices of the Peace. In the early nineties the Half-Breed Commission had two sessions here to wind up the issuance of Scrip Grants. Half-Breeds and Indians to the number of 3000 or more, came from points in the United States and Western Canada, to share and benefit in the grants. The first drowning accident in the lake occurred at this time.

A small stone building, which served the purposes for council meetings and a jail was erected about 1904 on Mountain avenue. Previous to that a box car was occasionally pressed into service to accommodate disturbers of the peace. During the mayorality of T. H. Buck, the present commodious building, including Town Hall, Council Chamber, Fire hall and Jail was built, and was opened on February 8th, 1910.

In 1903, we were incorporated as a village. The officers for the ensuing year were Robert Monteith, Mayor, John Lawrence, T. Buck, the late J. Pritchard and James Cowan. T. J. Lawlor succeeded R. Monteith for 1905 and 1906. His councillors were T. H. Buck, J. Lawrence, A. G. Hay and J. Cowan. The 1906 Council took proceedings to change the standing from a village to a town. J. M. Baldwin was the first Mayor for the town, others following were T. H. Buck, Dr. McKee, again T. Buck, J. W. Smail, J. Sanders, A. Shepherd, T. Cooper, R. Watson, and the present incumbent, J. W. Smail.

The spring of 1886 was marked by the advent of numerous implement dealers, among the first of whom was the late George Lawrence, representing Massey & Co. He and J. M. Baldwin were afterwards in partnership and handled machinery for several different firms. Mr. Lawrence was elected to represent Killarney County in 1896 and afterwards was taken into the Roblin Cabinet as Hon. Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Lawrence was instrumental in having the demonstration farm located near Killarney. Other implement agents were H. Anderson, John Armstrong, Toohill and Britton, Winram, Weir, Foley, Burrows and others. During 1886, C. W. Williams of Wakopa and F. S. Moule of Portage la Prairie, general merchants, were added to the business community, and later came A. E. Fremlin, Cross & Hicks, later R. Cross & Co., and Mr. Knechtel. Other business names familiar to old timers are W. A. Bingham, C. Richards, Robt. Rollins, F. Squair, Marquis & McCullough, Percival & McKnight, A. McQueen, J. Vibond, W. Roller, Geo. Parsons and others.

The first station agents were Ellis, Hicks, Betts and Russell. Then came Philip J. Sherlock in 1899, who retired in 1928 and was followed by H. E. Curll.

G. McNamee and C. Barquest were early section foremen, followed by J. T. Larson, who was superannuated in 1927.

The first lumber yards were owned by Robert Rolston and Fred Davis. Mr. Davis only remained a few years. Mr. Rolston erected a residence on the corner now occupied by the "Guide" office, and later a home on Clarke ave. After Mr. Rolston's death, the Wholesale Lumber Dealers carried on the business till it was bought out by A. M. High, John Conley and Thomas McElroy also handled lumber. James McNaughton had a lumber yard opposite the present High office. He

built a hall known as McNaughton's Hall, on South Railway street, with four offices on the ground floor. This business afterward passed to W. F. Ramsay & Son, then to Nelson & Thomas, and eventually to A. M. High.

Robert Rolston built and owned the first livery barn, known as the "Broncho Stable." Jonathan Lindsay and James Cowan also built one on South Railway street. Both were burned down. Mr. Gainer also carried on a livery stable in 1886-87. One of the finest livery, feed and sale stables in Southern Manitoba was erected by George Crawford & Son, on Williams avenue. Hannah & Robbins followed and later Dickson, McKenzie and Harris.

The first furniture store was built by A. Leitch, north of the track, where he also built a double house of stone. The store was afterwards moved south and placed where J. C. McCalpin now has his hardware store. The successors to A. Leitch were James McNaughton, Robt. Monteith, J. H. McCalpin, George Cooper and again J. H. McCalpin.

The first blacksmith shop was opened by Edward Machon. Then came John C. McLeod, now of Calgary, who was followed by F. Stilwell & Son, and R. Arscott, all on Broadway avenue. On South Railway street there were Wm. Weir, Thos. Readman and Wm. McNamee. F. Stilwell's business is still carried on by his son, A. H. Stilwell on Williams avenue. On the opposite side were A. G. McKibbin and Wm. Ellison.

The late George Treleaven opened the first harness shop. He built the Treleaven block on Broadway avenue and a brick cottage near the bay. Others in the same line of business were Messrs Tether, Sedore and Dudley.

Machinists who were kept busy, were Harrison Bros., Fred Galleon and later Shepherd and Baxter. They represented some of the large threshing and separator firms, repairing and keeping in order, threshing outfits in and beyond the Killarney district.

The honor of buying the first grain at Killarney belongs to the Ogilvie Milling Co., The growing of wheat and other farm produce was much retarded, on account of bad roads, lack of bridges and long distances to rail heads at Emerson, Manitou and Brandon.

In 1886 Ogilvies built a plank platform and were represented by Frank Simpson and James Dunsford, who were on the market for one season only. Then followed D. H. MacMillan & Brother. They erected the first grain warehouse, on the present Lake of the Woods site, and were represented by David Hysop & Son, later by Wallace Smith and J. Miller. Finlay M. Young and his brother, Donald, were also on the market, for Winnipeg dealers, during the winter of 1886.

The first elevator was put up by Wm. and George Harrison, known as Harrison Bros. It stood about where the Grain Growers are located

now, and through it passed most of the grain bought at that time. A. J. Rollins and John G. Smith were on the market at this time. They with T. J. Lawlor erected a warehouse where the Grain Growers coal shed stands. The next elevator known as "The Farmers" was built by James Hatch. He leased it, and bought for S. P. Clarke, of Winnipeg. Mr. Hatch also gave bin accomodation to other buyers. Nichol & Son, of Boissevain represented by Hugh Sutherland, and several, who came and were here but a short time. This building eventually fell into the hands of the late Joseph Pritchard, who disposed of it to the Patterson Grain Co. The latter firm finally took the building down and removed it.

Then came a grist mill north of the track, which received bonuses from the Municipalities of Riverside and Turtle Mountain. Woodruff & Sons, of Ontario, built and equipped this mill. Young Bros. & Buck took possession and also erected an elevator on a spur track. This enabled them, with their roller mill process, to supply local and export trade, and at times to handle most of the grain on the local market. Young Bros. also had elevators at Deloraine, Cartwright, Lena, Dunrea and other points. Dyeel & Leitch, Hanson Bros., and the United Grain Growers also had elevators in Killarney. The Harrison and Leitch elevators were burned the same day, about 1900.

The late Finlay M. Young, after representing the Constituency of Killarney for two, or more terms, part of which time he was Speaker of the House, was later called to the Senate at Ottawa, which position he filled till 1916. Mr. Young erected a fine brick dwelling on the corner of Clarke avenue and Finlay street, Alex Middleton's home today.

A school house, built in 1883 by Andrew McNamee, senior, was placed on the correction line, directly opposite the section road, running south and passing the end of the Bay. It was used for several years for community purposes. The first teachers were Miss A. E. Bates, assisted by Miss E. C. Williams, followed by Jesse Poole, A. A. Hobkirk and Mr. and Mrs. Scholes.

As the population increased, the old school had to be abandoned, and the trustees acquired what is known as the School Block on the East side of Broadway avenue. In 1891, a wood frame, brick veneered, four-roomed school was put up by A. Leitch. In 1906, the present High School, of solid brick was added. Snyder Bros. of Portage la Prairie, were the builders. Another building was placed directly east of the school block and used first for a primary department and later for manual training.

The first Board of Trustees was composed of three, A. J. Rollins, Chas. Bate and Peter Dufty, the latter was secretary-treasurer. After Peter Dufty, Charles Bate was made secretary-treasurer, which post he held until after the high school was built in 1906.

Previous to 1883, the nearest post offices were Smith's Hill, on the east, Wakopa, on the west and Glendenning on the north. Mr. Chas. Bate opened the first post office in this district, in his house on the farm on the north shore of the Lake, April 1, 1883. When first the post office was opened the mail was fetched from Wakopa. It was brought by rail to Brandon, thence to Deloraine by courier. Another courier took it to Wakopa, and a third brought it from Wakopa to the newly opened post office at Killarney. Later it was brought in from Brandon, via old Souris City and Langvale. In the fall of 1886, Mr. Bate moved the post office into town and later built a dwelling and office on Williams avenue. Here the post office remained till 1923, several years after Mr. Bate's death.

The first English church service in this district was held in the school house in September 1883. Rev. Geo. H. Aitkens preached from the text "What think ye of Christ?" The church without the chancel, was built in 1890 and opened in December of that year. Rev. Canon O'Meara took service at the opening. In 1892, the chancel was added, and the building brick veneered. Revs. Geo. H. Aitkens, W. R. Johnson and C. W. F. Jeffrey gave occasional service, till 1886, when W. R. Johnson became settled pastor and continued until 1895. T. C. O'Meara, student, and Rev. H. Beacham were later incumbents. Mr. Johnson again became rector of Holy Trinity church in 1900, remaining until 1916.

Among the earliest names of ordained Presbyterian ministers working in the district, were Revs. John Stewart, Cameron and Lan'row. They preached in school houses and also in the homes. Wm. Patterson of Wakopa and C. W. Gordon, "Ralph Connor" were two of the earliest students in the field. Before the church was built, the Presbyterians worshipped for a time in Pritchard's Hall, McNaughton's Hall and the old Methodist church. Students whose names will be familiar to many were Mann, Fraser, G. Menzies, J. W. S. Lowry, J. MacGerrigle, Peter Strang, Smith and Polson. Ordained men were Revs. C. W. Whyte, J. R. Hodnett, McKenzie and M. P. Floyd. The stone church, Erskine, was erected in 1898, Rev. Dr. Pitbaldo, of Westminster church, Winnipeg, conducted the services, when the church was opened and dedicated. Rev. M. P. Floyd was the first settled pastor in the new church. He was followed by Rev. Dan McIvor.

Rev. Andrew Stewart, later Dr. Stewart of Wesley College, and Rev. Wm. Elliott, were the two earliest Methodist ministers in the district, holding services in the first school house, and also in the homes. Mr. Stewart was here in 1882. The old church and parsonage were built in 1887, the site for the church being donated by Mr. Williams. When the new church was built in 1900, the old one was moved and converted into an implement shed on Broadway avenue. The parson-

age was also removed and sold. The congregation later bought a brick house built by James McCann, on Broadway avenue, which they still use for a parsonage.

Nelson Tracey and Allan Crouse were the builders of the new church, now known as First United. The names of some of those who occupied the pulpit at different times are Mr. Cruickshanks, student, Revs. A. H. Anderson, H. Lewis, J. Tozeland and C. F. Van Norman.

Charles Bate organized the first Sabbath School in 1883. It included children of all denominations and continued as a Union Sunday School, with Mr. Bate as superintendent, until 1897 or '98, when each church took over the care of its own children. Mr. Bate continued as Superintendent of Holy Trinity Sunday School until 1914.

Mrs. B. T. Lawrence was the first child born in the Village.

A small paper called "The Southern Manitoba" was printed for a short time in the summer of 1886, by an American from Dakota. Later we had another, also short lived, printed by Rev. Charles Whyte. In 1896 the "Killarney Guide" came into existence. For two years it was published by W. H. Hatch. The present Editor and Proprietor, J. H. Monteith took it over in 1898. Anyone to glance over the columns of the "Guide" today, and note the different branches of business advertised there, can form some idea of the progress that has been made in forty-two years.

To our surrounding district belongs much of the credit for this progress. Killarney district was a large one, and the town drew trade from an area extending from Cartwright to Boissevain, and from the Boundary line, to well on towards Brandon.

Though life in the pioneer days was hard, and many privations were borne, they were also happy years. Neighbors were all friends in these days, and a visitor could always be sure of a welcome, and the best the house afforded, though sometimes the best was not very good, especially when the potatoes were all frozen, and bread made from frozen wheat flour was to be found in every home.

Mrs. John Williams tells of her first start in poultry raising. Securing a setting of eggs from a neighbor, she found a wild duck's nest and a prairie chicken's nest, and traded eggs with the nest owners with the result, that in due course, every egg but one brought forth a little chick, which was watched for, and carefully tended in the house, until able to fend for itself.

We had picnics in those early days, which were red-letter days especially the Sunday School picnics, when Mr. James Finlay would lead the procession of wagons playing on the bagpipes, and folks came for miles to join in the fun.

We had an occasional concert too. The first concert was held in the school, in March 1885, as a farewell to Rev. Andrew Stewart, the first minister to hold services in this district. We also had a banquet and concert in September of the same year, to say good-bye to Charles W. Gordon, then but a student, never thinking that he would become, as "Ralph Connor", such a noted writer in later years.

The centre of community life, in the early days, was the church service, and every one attended, no matter what the denomination of the preacher. Some of the early settlers will remember how J. G. Smith used to get the right tone for the hymns from his tuning fork, and how, once Mrs. John Williams started "Nearer My God to Thee" to the tune of "Robin Adair." It went well, too.

A Literary and Musical Society was started in 1886, which lasted for five or six years. Lots of fun was had, practicing such glees as "All Among the Barley," and "Hail, Smiling Morn," and an organ was bought for the use of all community gatherings and placed in the old school house. A reading room was later opened over the post office, where various meetings and entertainments were held, and where everyone could enjoy magazines and papers, where games of various kinds could be indulged in.

The first boat to be placed on the lake was built for Mr. John Williams by Mr. Milo Harris from lumber brought from Portage la Prairie, Mr. Williams brought it on a Red River cart, drawn by an ox. The boat, which was called "The Pioneer", was built in Mr. Williams' house in 1883, and had to be put through the window. There were several home-made flat-bottomed punts on the lake, previous to this, but no real boats.

Time and space make it impossible to give the names of the noble pioneers who worked under all sorts of handicaps, laying the foundations of what we enjoy at the present time.

Looking backward, we have much to be thankful for, and looking forward, we think of the young people, whose duty it will be to carry on.

May they take up the burden, with hearts full of song and press onward, singing in all sincerity, "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Reminiscences of an Early Home-steader

BY ALEX. RANKIN

In the days of which I write, Wakopa was the metropolis of the Turtle Mountain district. There council met, and parliamentary nominations were made. At our first political meeting Arthur Rollins was asked the question, "What are the boundaries of your constituency?" To which he replied, "They begin at Clearwater, on the East and end at sundown on the West."

The first bridge in the Municipality was built at Wakopa, by George Crawford, in the year 1881. The second and third bridges were built by William and Charles Willoughby, between sections 2 and 11 and 3 and 10.

General Custer's horse and saddle were brought to Wakopa by the Indians, after the massacre in Yellowstone, Montana, in 1876.

Harrison Bros. saw mill was built in 1879. Later on they built a grist mill, George Bennett, a freighter, brought in the first and second pairs of stones for this mill from Emerson. One of these trips was made with oxen. I have made trips to Nelsonville for grists, September 1881. Also to Glenora, Crystal City, Deloraine and Wawanesa.

The first team of horses in the Turtle Mountain district was owned by a man named La Riviere. His nephew, Jeremiah La Riviere, a big husky freighter, drove them to Emerson for store goods. On the return trip the horses played out at Badger Creek (now Cartwright). The driver walked to Wakopa for a bundle of hay, and a sack of oats, which he carried back to the horses, a round trip of sixty miles. At one of the stopping places on the way, before coming as far as Badger Creek, there was a free for all fight. La Riviere saw that he was not going to be able to get any sleep indoors, so he went out side and scooped out a hole in the side of a snow-bank, rolled himself up in his buffalo robe, and slept peacefully till morning in 15 below zero weather.

I had a trip in the fall of 1881 from Crystal City to old Desford and back, and had dinner and supper in one meal at Joe McKibbin's, Badger Creek. All the country was burnt black, not a blade of grass to be seen. A prairie fire had swept the country starting about where the town of Melita is now, and extended to Cartwright before it was brought under control.

A man by the name of Hill, a Hudson Bay trader, was out five days in a blizzard, his legs were badly frozen to the knees, and his arms to the elbows. He crawled from Wood Lake to Wakopa, a distance of five miles. The Indians found him and took care of him. They daubed

the frozen parts with a knife before thawing, so that the congealed blood would ooze out in thawing, the parts healing perfectly.

The mail was brought in from Emerson, and the mail sack was emptied into Clevis's big box, where each settler went and sorted out his own mail. Everything that was lost and found by some one was brought to this box. Later a regular mail route was established, coming in from Brandon. Clevises kept the first post office.

La Riviere, who owned the horses, was a Justice of the Peace, and a commissioner for affidavits, could speak seven dialects of the Indian language, also French and English, but could not write his own name.

A deputation was sent from our district to Winnipeg to ask for an extension of the railway. They were told to go home and raise wheat, and not to come in there to raise h——!

J. P. Alexander was our first M. L. A., and Finlay Young was our second member. I drew his trunk from Wakopa to Brandon when he went to Winnipeg for his first term in the legislature.

Our first July First celebration was held in 1883, at Wakopa. The races took place on the road on the west side of the creek. Jim Cowan's pony being the winner, with Bob Weir as jockey. I built a granary that my neighbor, Jim Gordon, said I might fall down and worship, and not commit any sin, as there was nothing like it in the heavens above, or the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth.

Mr. Rowsom, when telling Mr. Gordon of the new game laws, expressed the opinion that it was quite right for the prairie chickens to be protected, as they stayed here all winter, but the ducks, being here for the summer only, didn't need protection. Mr. Gordon could not see eye to eye with him there, his opinion being that a bird that could fly, and hadn't sense enough to get out of this country for the winter didn't deserve protection. In expressing an opinion on returning borrowed articles, he said it wasn't right to break the laws of the country, if people wanted their things let them go after them, and be mighty thankful that they knew where they were.

The first steam power butter factory was started by John Hettle, on Sharpe's Creek in 1885. A. Sharpe and the Young Bros. were directors.

The first person buried in the cemetery in the bush beside the school at Wakopa, was John Axford, who was accidentally shot. Then two of Clevises' children and Alec McFee.

La Riviere kept the first store, before then he had been a trader with the Indians. C. W. Williams and Harrison Bros. were in partnership in the next store.

I had first ruling in Manitoba from the Department of Education, as to legality of using school taxes to build a stable at Long River school.

There were tragedies in those days, too. Big horse, an Indian, killed

English Henry, another Indian. Big Horse made his escape. There was a Frenchman murdered by another Frenchman, for which the slayer was sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary. Then there were the exciting days of the Riel Rebellion, in 1885. We had rifles and bayonets issued to us by the government. There was one company of home-guards at Wakopa, and another at Maple Grove, of which I was sergeant. I still have my bayonet as a souvenir.

In those days Little Shell, chief of the Chippewas, used to travel back and forth from Dakota to Fort Ellice, in the Qu'Appelle Valley every spring and fall. One day he called at my house, saying "Minne, minne". I finally understood that he was asking for water. I offered him a glass of milk, which he indignantly pushed aside saying "Give papoose, squaw, brave no drink milk."

Henry Coulter bought the first horse-power threshing machine. Second and third, William Chapman and Darius Harris.

I, with my team of horses, lived in a dug-out for two seasons. The place was sixteen feet square, and I had a small sheet-iron stove. One winter, several men with teams, drove over the top of it, not knowing that a faithful homesteader was doing his duties underneath.

William Shannon bought the first steam threshing machine. James Sharpe was our first tax collector. James Gordon was the first assessor.

The first white child born in the district was the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Grant. It was said that this child was kidnapped by Indians, and never heard of again.

Jim Cowan and Tom Coulter were our first cattle buyers. They drove their first shipment of cattle to Brandon, following them on ponies. These cattle were shipped to Calgary.

Lyonshall was the first school built in the district in 1882. Miss E. A. Jones, now Mrs Alex McKnight, was the first teacher. Miss Reeves was the next teacher.

Many people used to come to Wakopa mills, bringing grain to be aground into flour, or buying lumber at the saw-mill. Meals were served at the Harrison home, at La Riviere's, and at Mrs. J. Melville's boarding house.

The first church services were held in the Hudson Bay trading post, and were conducted by a young Presbyterian student by the name of Patterson, now Dr. Patterson, of Toronto. The church was built in Lyonshall in 1897. I remember being at a box social held in the school house, where T. J. Lawlor acted as auctioneer..

In 1882, when absent from homestead duties, I took part in a hunt for horse-thieves, and three stolen horses. The thieves had stolen the horses from a man of Calf Mountain, near Morden, and were travel-

ling westward near the boundary when overtaken by the sheriff. They would not surrender either themselves or the horses, but told him to take them dead or alive if he could. The sheriff did not shoot, but called out some of the nearest settlers to help him, and the thieves were over-taken beside a large slough; but they still defied the sheriff to take them, alive or dead. Some who had rifles wanted to shoot, but others restrained them, especially a young man by the name of J. W. Smail, from Crystal City, who strongly advised them not to shoot, for if they should happen to kill the men they could be tried for murder under British law, even though the men were thieves. In the meantime, while the sheriff and settlers were parleying with the out-laws, two brothers, by the name of McKitrick had crept close enough to the horses, through the long grass to stampede them, so the horses were caught, but the thieves escaped. The sheriff was satisfied to get the horses, and let the men go. The thieves traveled about seven miles east that night, and stole three horses from the Lynes brothers. They then went a few miles west and crossed the boundary into Dakota.

The next morning the men of the settlement, well armed, followed their tracks, resolved this time to get them. There was not a man left but myself and a young fellow by the name of Alex Mutch. When the women of the district realized that all the men were away, and that they had no provisions or extra clothing, they got us to take a team and wagon and go around the settlement gathering up provisions. We started out, well supplied with bread, tea, pork and flour, also overcoats and quilts, as rain had come on, and they expected the men would be away for several days, and the nearest settlement in Dakota was at Devil's Lake, sixty miles away.

We met many of the men returning their ardour to catch the out-laws being dampened by the rain and chill. However, we continued our journey until we overtook the leaders of the party, just before dusk.

When it became too dark to follow the tracks further, we unhitched our horses and tied them around the wagon, and prepared our own supper. Then we spread our quilts under the wagon, and laid down and tried to sleep, but the rain trickled through the bottom of the wagon box and sleep was out of the question. We moved out into the open, so that the rivulets could not reach us. With two horse blankets on the ground, and our quilts over us, we tried to sleep in the drizzling rain. There were eight of us, the ones behind crowding out those in front, so that he, too, got in behind, and thus we tried to keep warm, as we were chilled to the marrow although it was the last week in June.

With the breaking of the day we had our breakfast, and then re-

sumed our tracking. We followed the tracks until well on in the day, and they led us away to the south-west, toward Bismark. We changed our course south for Devil's Lake, or Fort Totten, where we might get assistance from the militia, or the Indian scouts.

We camped on the north side of the lake that night, crossed over by the ferry in the morning, reaching the fort, and found that the men we were seeking had been there all night; having travelled around the end of the lake, and had left only an hour before we arrived.

We asked the major in command if we over-took the men, and they would not give up the horses, if we had the right to fire on them, even if we should kill. "Oh," he said, "There is no law in the United States protecting horse thieves, you take your own chance." There we had the difference between the law of the United States and the law of Britain.

The Lynes boys offered seventy-five dollars reward for their three horses, or twenty-five for each horse, and the commandant sent some of the Indian scouts with us.

We came on our men where they had camped for dinner. The Indians had spread out, and came on them from different directions. The Indians drew their revolvers and the thieves surrendered. They made them deliver their guns, and give up the horses, then to our great surprise they let the men go.

When they returned to the Fort they were asked why they did not bring in the men too. They replied, "Reward for horses, no reward for men."

They were given the seventy-five dollars, and the officer in charge allowed them to keep the guns and revolvers they had taken from the men and the Indians were happy.

We were happy too, as we started back over the trail, and we reached home safely on the first day of July.

Pioneer History of the Lena District

BY MRS. W. LYONS

Many are the stories told of the nights spent with Mennonites on the drive from Emerson to the Lena district. At that time (in the early 80's) Emerson was the end of the railway. The balance of the journey had to be made by ox team or horses, if the new settler was fortunate enough to possess that luxury.

Having to pass through the Mennonite settlement, many spent the night in their homes, where they always found a kind welcome, plenty to eat and a warm feather bed to keep the weary travellers warm.

I think we who at that time were children, will always remember the night spent on the way.

The new home was sighted with joy, even if it was only a sod shack. Some houses in this district were built from lumber drawn from Emerson, others were log built from logs cut in Turtle Mountain. We also depended on wood from these mountains to keep our fires burning.

In the spring of 1882, a young couple drove from the Emerson district by ox team, settling on a farm near the boundary. Their home was a sod shack with mother earth for floor. It was built from one-ply boards banked up on the outside with sods. As sod shack building was new to this young man, he did not build them properly, with the result the sods spread away from the lumber leaving a space between for the cold winter winds to get in and penetrate through the one ply walls.

Their bed and table were made from boards and nailed to the wall. The boards had previously been drawn from Emerson by ox team. In this shack, their first child was born.

Among the earliest settlers in this south district near the boundary line, were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rowsom. Mr. Rowsom was a carpenter by trade and besides helping out in building, he made the coffins that held the early dead.

Mrs. Rowsom held the first private school in her home in 1886. The next summer, Mr. J. W. Magwood taught school in the "Old Barber house" west of where Victoria Lake school now stands. Children drove for 5 miles to attend the classes.

In 1889 the Plum Hollow school was built. It was named after a district by that name in Leeds County, Ontario, where one of the first trustees attended school. The first school board consisted of Fred Burrows, Herb Beach and John Barber. The latter was also sec-treas. for a number of years. Geo. B. Monteith, now of Winnipeg, was the

first teacher and he continued to teach for five terms. While teaching, he put in his homestead duties on a farm two miles east of the school.

Plum Hollow school opened with the following names on the roll: Charles, Ernest, Eva and Mabel Barber, Willie, Edith and Zella Lawrence, Lizzie, Jim, George and Emily Church. In 1892, Middleton Barber, Annie Church, Nellie Crabb and Willie Karney were added to the list.

Mr. Robert Church was one of the first settlers. He was a brick maker by trade, so finding clay on his farm suitable to make brick, he went to work. In the early days he made them by hand, afterwards getting machinery to make the work lighter. He supplied brick for chimneys and brick buildings in the surrounding district. Many of the brick buildings in town were built from his kiln.

Mr. W. Smallicombe was a tailor and drove over the whole district with his pony and buckboard, making suits and coats for the homesteaders. Many of the pioneers will remember his jolly laugh.

When Colin and Robert Finlayson came to Emerson, they had nothing but a trunk with their belongings in. They bought a team of young unbroken oxen, put a yoke on them, cut a plank in two, made a stone boat by nailing them together, hooked the oxen up to it, put their trunk on the planks and drove up to their homesteads, walking beside the team to urge them along.

The Finlayson family were the very first settlers in the Victoria Lake district, coming in 1881. Mrs. Finlayson was doctor and nurse combined for a number of years. We have many happy memories of the kind old lady coming to our homes to help relieve the sufferings of our dear ones. Her sons, Colin and William still live on their homesteads. Robert resides here in town.

Colin Finlayson owned the first top buggy and snappy driver. Robt. Finlayson and Robt. Shire were the first men to homestead in 1-17. Colin Finlayson and Maria Shire were the first couple married, their daughter Anna, was the first birth. She is now Mrs. (Rev.) Dennison, of Cando, N. Dak.

Robert Douglas, a Scotchman with money, built the first big frame house in this district. He also owned the first cutter.

The first threshing machine, a horse power was owned and operated by Wm. Finlayson and Robt. Shire. Mrs. Shire was the first white woman and Mrs. Finlayson, the second in the district.

T. S. Menarey of Cartwright was the first storekeeper. He opened a branch store in a small shack near the Rowsom homestead. A half-breed was in charge, there the first settlers bought their supplies.

John and William Barber came from the Snowflake district in 1884.

havin~ the opportunity to set homesteads in this district. John Barber owned one of the best teams of horses west of Emerson. He brought them from Huron Co. Ontario, when he came west in 1883. William Barber was a plasterer and brick layer. He built chimneys and plastered houses over the whole district. To this day some of the plaster is still doing service. Many of the pioneers will remember his buckskin ponies and greyhounds. He did a great deal to keep the wolves from getting troublesome. When a wolf was sighted word was sent to "Bill" as he was then known. He lost no time in gettin~ on the scene with his fleet ponies. Soon the wolf would be run down and killed..

Mr. John Rowsom was the first game guardian.

Wat Nichol was a noted violinist in these days and whenever a dance was held, Wat would be invited to come along and bring his "fiddle". Many are the pleasant evenings spent dancing to his music. His sons today furnish music for our old time dances, which the middle aged people still enjoy.

Fred Burrows opened a post office in his house, one mile south of Lena in 1892. Up to that time the settlers had to drive to either Killarney or St. John, N. D. for their mail. For 13 years, Mr. Burrow's home was a community centre, where friends and neighbors met once or twice a week to get their mail and to talk of crops and weather. In 1905 the post office was moved to Langensfield's store, Lena.

The late Mr. John Williams of Killarney, was the first mail carrier. Mr. Harry Hunter was the second. The route took in Lyonshall, Wakopa and Lena and was made twice a week.

The R. N. W. M. Police played a very important part in that south district in the early days. They patrolled the boundary every day, giving us a feeling of protection. Their red coat was a welcome sight to the lonely settler. While the early settler admired and honored the mounty, the Indians were terrified of them and kept out of their way. They also did good work in stopping smuggling and horse stealing.

Before the mounty was placed on the boundary, the Indians often visited homes, frightening women and children. I remember hearing of two big chiefs, "dressed in their war paint," coming to a home. The men folks being away, they forced themselves inside the house, huddling around the stove to get warm. "It was a very cold day."

The woman thought she would give them something to eat, as a well fed Indian is "much better natured than a hungry one." She spread some big slices of bread with butter, passing the plate to them. The butter was not spread to suit the big chief, so he drew a big knife out of his belt and proceeded to spread it to his liking. Of course the sight of the knife frightened the children and they ran crying to another

room. When the Indians saw they had frightened them, they showed some papers they had been given by the customs officer, giving them permission to come across, so the woman knew they were harmless. After they got warm and fed they went on their way. But many times the red men were not as harmless as these proved to be.

In 1885, the time of the N. W. Rebellion, a "home guard" was formed. It consisted of farmers in the south district, and the object was to enable each man to protect his home and property from the prowling Indian, who was out to steal anything he could carry away.

The government supplied to each man an Enfield rifle, bayonets and ammunition. Once a week they met in Wakopa for drill. It was a good idea, as it furnished firearms for each home and taught the people the necessity of protecting their homes and property. When the Indian knew the white man was armed, he kept away from the homesteads. Those of us who were children in 1885, still fear and hate the Indian.

In the early 80's, religious services were held occasionally in farm homes, but after the Plum Hollow school was built, it became the church centre. Among the early ministers who preached in this district were Revs. Wm. Elliott, Joe Lowry, Henry Lewis, A. H. Anderson, John Tozeland, Lorne McTavish, W. T. Bailey, H. E. Gilbert, Thompson and Bashom. A few years ago a church was built at Lena, and now regular services are held there.

This district had a great draw back for many years, as their nearest market was Killarney, from 10 to 15 miles away from the average settler.

In 1904, the Lena branch Railway was built from Greenway through Lena and Wakopa and on to Deloraine, giving the farmers a market within 3 or 4 miles, making a vast difference to them.

A. B. Langenfield built the first general store. He handled all kinds of merchandise, in fact everything the farmer needed, saving them the long drive to town. Today this district is considered one of the most prosperous districts in Manitoba.

Pioneer Days in the Rowland District

BY J. E. HAIGHT

Owing to lack of time and space, I must confine this article chiefly to the actual homesteaders. What is generally known as the Rowland district consists of Township 4, Range 18 and part of the South half of Township 4, Range 17. Mr. George Haight colonized the greater part of the South half of 4-18, bringing from the County of Oxford, Ontario, the early homesteaders, taking for himself and his four sons, homesteads and pre-emptions. The application for entry for lands were then made at the land office at Deloraine. In the years 1882 and 1883, the most of the entries were made for this part of Township 4-18. The Bleakley Bros., Woodrow Bros., Johnson Bros., Arthur Squires, T. E. Bill, Joseph McKay. In the northern part, were the Mitchell Bros., Wm. Bertrand, James Russell and several others from other parts of Oxford County. Mr. A. Mustard, although a pretty small boy when he came in 1883, has the right to claim an important part in the development of this section of the country. Most of these homesteaders were young men and unmarried, I think at this time, there were only four married men in the Township, so when the ladies began to come, you may be sure they received a right royal welcome. On July 27th, 1883, Mrs. Geo. Haight, Miss Cunliff and the writer arrived at Rowland, via Brandon, from Brandon to Rowland per horse team and democrat. They arrived a little too soon, however to receive a grand reception. Mr. S. J. Woodrow was getting together all the men and ox teams in the neighborhood to come out to meet us. He also had a part of a brass band to accompany the procession.

An item worthy of note just here might be that the first white child to be borne in Township 4-18, was a little Miss McKay, however she may have thought it not wise to stay here, so soon went with her parents to their home in Ontario.

In 1884 came Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Bailey, the parents of the worthy manager of the Royal Bank of this town. Mr. Bailey was a tailor by trade and it was he who made the wedding suit of the writer of this article.

Later came Mr. and Mrs. James Wye, The Muirhead Bros., Mr. David Lister and his father, and others to purchase R. R., H. B. and School lands. The homesteads by this time were about all taken, except here and there an abandoned quarter section. In the south west part of 4-17, were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McKnight, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. McKnight, the Smale Bros., Will Henry, Stockdale Bros., and Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Wilson.

The nearest post office was at Langvale, about 13 miles away and some of the young husky fellows thought it nothing to walk over in an afternoon for the mail for themselves and their neighbors, especially when they were expecting a letter from the "girl I left behind me."

When the post office was established at Rowland in 1883, with Geo. Haight as post master, the late Mr. Chas. Bate was appointed in Her Majesty's Service to carry the mail from Killarney to Langvale and Rowland. Later Mr. James Russell, with his faithful old grey horse, "Dan" and buckboard, took over the service.

In 1887, on January 7th, we began to get two mails per week, previous to this only one per week and some times none at all.

In 1882, it was fully expected that the Manitoba Southwestern Railway would pass from Glendenning through the southern part of Township 4 westward, so with high hopes, what was expected to become a thriving town was located on Section 10-4-18. A stopping place, store, blacksmith shop, with Neil Johnson as first smith, a large feed and sales stable, consisting of poplar poles and prairie brick, and a commodious tent were erected. This location was in a direct line from Brandon to the historic village of Wakopa and the international boundary.

But, alas, the long cherished hopes of the pioneers were not to be realized, for in 1885, the railway came leaving Rowland, the nucleus of a busy, prosperous, commercial center four miles north of its iron way. Thus the verification of the thought as expressed by the poet, "Hopes are allusions and not what they seem." Today there is nothing left to mark the spot.

Some notable persons were entertained in the humble farm homes in those days. Among them were Lord John Pollock, of London, Eng., Professor Tanner, of Edinborough, Scotland. These two were accompanied by Mr. J. W. Dafoe, later editor of the Winnipeg Free Press. He was on duty as reporter. It was Mrs. Geo. Haight, who did the entertaining on this occasion.

When Professor Tanner returned to his home in Scotland, he wrote a poem about the great west country, part of which I here quote: "There a man is a man, if he is willing to toil. And the humblest may gather the fruits of the soil. There children are plenty and he who hath most hath help for his fortunes and riches to boast. There the young may exult and the aged may rest, away far away in the land of the West."

Those were the good old days, there was friendliness and companionableness, for every man was as good as his neighbor, they had hearts

that could feel for his neighbor's woe and share in his joy with a friendly glow, with sympathies large enough to enfold all men as brothers. They were bound together by one common tie in the days of the early eighties. If one was unfortunate and behind with his work, the word was, "come on boys, we'll help him out," with no thought of how much are we going to get for it.

Parties? yes, lots of them, surprise parties too, in sleigh loads drawn by oxen, or perhaps an ox and a cow, or a horse and an ox. One amusing sight the writer saw was a horse and an ox hitched to a top buggy conveying a man and his wife to church service, on Sunday. The preacher was no less a person than the late Dr. Stewart who later became professor in Wesley College, Winnipeg. He, I think, was the first inspector of schools in this southern district. He and Mr. Wm. Ryan of this town, who was then Reeve of Turtle Mountain Municipality formed the Bethel School District in 1887. The meeting was held in what was then called a "house," dimensions, 10 x 12. Divine services were held in stopping places and in private homes until Rowland school house was built in 1886 and Bethel School in 1887.

The first sermon preached in Bethel was on November 4th, 1888. Rev. Mr. Lowery was the preacher and there were thirty in attendance. Services and Sunday School, entertainments and public gatherings were held in the Rowland school house from the early days up to the time when the church was built in 1913. The Rev. C. Teeter was the first to start a movement towards the building of this church. Following Mr. Teeter came Rev. J. B. E. Anderson and during his ministry of several years, the church was planned, financed, work begun and well on to completion. Then came Rev. Mr. Stock, under whom the building was finished, opened and dedicated to the worship and service of God, on November 16th, 1913. Thus there now stands in the centre of a thriving community this beautiful and well equipped little church as a tribute to the labor and sacrifice of a united people and all free of debt.

The first political meeting ever held in the district was in the stopping place under the auspices of the "Farmers Union," Mr. James Lang of Langvale was the speaker. The Municipality of Riverside in which lies the Rowland district never had a place where liquor could legally be sold. It came under Local Option in the early days as the result of a petition circulated by Rev. Mr. Kinley and Mr. A. Mitchell, such solid men as Mr. Thos Morrow, late of Killarney, the McMillans, Mitchells, Loves, Chesters, Bills, Hopwoods and many others, upheld the temperance cause, when an effort was made to repeal in 1908 and it failed, no effort has been made since and still they are fighting on.

Game was plentiful in the pioneer days. Geese ducks, sandhill cranes, and chicken. Fur-bearing animals were also numerous, Red fox, of which the writer dressed 32 in one winter and the pelts were sold at from \$1.50 to \$2.00 each. Mink, badger and there was also in evidence that very much despised little animal which when danger approached had the faculty of effusing an extremely obnoxious effluvia which plainly said, please let me alone, and all will be well.

Sometimes the graceful jumping deer might be seen leisurely strolling over the prairie and in the timber areas, moose and elk were to be found.

In concluding these memories of the pioneer days, I have to say that most of the brave men and women who turned the virgin soil of the wide open prairie into fields of productiveness, who endured the hardships and privations of pioneering, built homes, churches and schools and made it a goodly land in which to live, these have left their mark and passed on, showing that this is a world of change. In thinking of this, it seems to me that I might fittingly quote these words. "Like as a plank of driftwood, cast on an angry main, another plank encounters, meets, touches, parts again. So it is with life forever, o'er life's dark troubled sea we meet, we greet, we sever, drifting eternally.

Oak Ridge District

Contributed by Mrs. Harriet David

The school district of Oak Ridge, of which I am supposed to write was formed and a school built during the year 1888. Though the necessity for it had been here some three or four years previous, Mr. John Rigby known for many years as Captain Rigby called the first meeting for organization and afterwards built the school, which still stands on the same site, on the bank of the Pembina River. All the neighbors turned out to draw lumber, some of which came from Brandon and some from a saw mill at old Wakopa. Miss Bate, still residing in Killarney, was our first teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Richards were our first settlers, coming July 1881. Mrs. Richards lived here nine months before seeing a woman. Ernie Richards was the first child born in the district. In the spring of 1882 more settlers came in and took up homesteads. Among those were Mr. W. Hysop, Mr. David, Mr and Mrs. Rigby, Mr. and Mrs. Lillew, Mr. and Mrs. Vipond, Mr. and Mrs. Moxley Mr. Hillier came in 1884. These people drove from Emerson, that was the nearest Railroad point. The Land Entry Office for Homesteading was in Deloraine. The fact that land taken up at that time is still being held and operated by the same people, speaks well for the care taken in picking out homesteads in those early days.

It has been and still is a Protestant district. Though we had not a church in those early days, service was held in different homes. The first the writer remembers being at, was at Mr. Chas. Richards, at which Mr. Fairhall preached a wonderful sermon on "Christ's Love."

The hardships of those early days, before the railroad came were many, the closest market was Brandon and the home store was Wakopa, where all goods had to be freighted in. The doctors were few and far between, and the nearest neighbor had often to fill in as best they could with kindness, perhaps instead of knowledge. However, the joy and fun of roaming the wide prairie, hunting geese and ducks, that were here in thousands, or gathering fruit or even hunting up the latest homesteader to see where he came from or possibly if he needed a helping hand, all helped to make the days go past, and still makes many an old "pioneer" speak of the days as "the good old days." The good old ox, many an hour did he help pass away, if only trying to get him on a few miles for a load of wood, or to draw the family to church.

The first year, one would break as many acres as they could, some planted potatoes on the bit they managed to break. Little by little, by

hard work and patience we had enough land ready to put into crop. Hay was plentiful, so cattle and pigs were brought in. The houses around were built of logs, cut from oak or poplar trees, on the bank of the Pembina River. Most of the furniture was home-made and lucky for the wife if her husband had the ability to make what was needed. The stables were built of anything available, some straw, some sod and a few logs.

The following are a few experiences of the writer: We left Brandon with all our earthly possessions drawn by a team of horses with a pair of oxen tied on behind. After three days on the road we arrived at Section 24-3-18, unloaded the wagon, tied the horses and oxen to it and called it HOME. During the three days drive we had lots of time to look over the country. The sun was bright and warm, but the world looked lonely. While on the road I was given the lines and told to keep on the road, and drive for a change, while my brother and husband rode on the oxen, suddenly we came to water, it looked a lot, but I had been told not to leave the road, so kept on. It got deeper and deeper, the horses lost their footing, but found it again, and got safe through, right on the road. On looking back, found that the boys on the oxen had been nearly drowned as the oxen had to swim. But such were the roads in those days, and we were all very optimistic for the future.

John Rigby, known as Captain Rigby came from Montreal where he had been captain of the steamers Princess and Dagmar, on the Ottawa River. He with Mr. Ed. Lillew, Mr. Ralph Vipond and Mr. Wesley, leaving their families in Montreal, arrived in Emerson, on March 1882.

In a letter to his sister in England, dated July 23 '82, Mr. Rigby says: "While in Emerson we looked up our old friend Mr. McQueen, and found he had gone to church, so we made ourselves at home until his return. When he opened the door and saw the four of us sitting there he gave us a great hand shake and a royal welcome.

"We were delayed in Emerson 8 days, waiting for our baggage, which had been snowed up at St. Vincent, two miles south of Emerson, roads and trains were blocked in every direction, the storm being the most severe they had had all winter. When the storm cleared up we left for the Turtle Mountains, having bought our outfits, Mr. Vipond buying a team of oxen. But before we got to the night stopping place the wind got up and we had to travel the last mile through another blizzard. The oxen nearly played out. Next morning the wind had gone down and we continued on our way. When we arrived in Wapakopa, we learned the land guide had taken up land in the Oak Lake

(Killarney) district, so we decided to go there and see him. We fortunately met him on the way and he told us the land around Oak Lake was not opened up for homesteading yet, but we could locate what suited us and squat on it. He also gave us the numbers of the vacant lots and showed us where to erect a tent in the woods near the lake, as there was no house where we could stay.

"We found a place in the bush where the long grass was not covered with snow and with the oats we had the oxen got enough to eat. Between the wind, snow and sun, our faces were tanned and chapped so badly, that afterwards the skin peeled off. This condition continued until the end of April.

"The next day we took compass and field glass and started out to locate our homesteads. There was nothing to be seen but snow, not a tree, except on the banks of the small river that we crossed, and to the east, 10 miles away, we could see a dark line that belted Pelican Lake. We found lots that suited us and decided to squat. We had a very tiresome walk back to our tent six miles through deep snow, which the sun had started to melt, sometimes going knee deep in the soft snow. Next morning we started back for our land, and had only got to the end of Oak Lake, going up on the ice, when it began to blow and snow from the north east. When Vipond and I reached our destination we could not see the others, so we turned back and found them stuck in a hollow. They were digging a hole in the snow to make shelter for themselves and oxen for the night. We decided to go to the river and camp in the bush leaving the load where it was.

"When we got to the valley, I looked around and saw smoke on the opposite slope about a mile east coming from a house, so we made for that and to our astonishment, found it the home of an Englishman and his family, Mr. C. Richards, where we found shelter for both ourselves and oxen for which we were very thankful, as we were drenched to the skin. We were made very welcome.

"Next day we got to our land, and Vipond returned to Wakopa for a load of lumber and the balance of our things we had left when we came on to Oak Lake. I put up a tent and a shelter for the oxen. You can imagine what it was like to sleep in a tent with only a small stove (16 in. long) in the winter. We laid down like a trooper's horse, boots and all, went to sleep wet and got up wet, this taking place for weeks. When the spring floods came, it was almost as bad.

"We got word on June 20th that the land was open for homesteads, and were at the land office, a distance of 45 miles, the next day at 2 p.m., entering for the land, paid our money and got back 10 miles on our way that night, where we camped by the roadside as happy as

kings. It removed quite a load from our minds as now we can go away for six months at a time without fear of losing the title to our land.

"We are now having the finest weather since spring came. The country all around assumes the richest garb. No one can form any idea of the beauty of these prairies in the summer unless they have seen them. Each month seems to bring forth its own peculiar flowers and the season its game. At times the country is swarmed with wild fowl of various kinds.

"About the latter part of April, a kind of purple flower, in shape something like a snow drop. I do not know the names, but there are scores of varieties that I have never seen before. Now the prairies are covered with the wild rose, red and white, orange lilies, bluebells, marigolds and morning glories and in other places the grass is as high as my waist.

"Oak Lake, (Killarney, as the land guide, John Sydney O'Brien calls it), is a beautiful sheet of water, clear as crystal and abounding with fish and fowl. We bait our hooks with frogs, throw in our line as far as we can, haul in quickly and we are almost certain to have a fish. I think we would travel the world over before we would hit another spot to equal Manitoba and this locality in particular.

"Some time after we had squatted on our several homesteads, we were down to the lake one day. I saw a very tall man standing on the shore, a little way from where I was and on going towards him he made a sign, which I quickly answered, and found he was like myself, a Mason. He was Mr. William Willoughby and he had taken up land five miles south of our land. We became great friends afterwards."—
Copied with permission of Miss Rigby.

Pioneer Days

On September 2nd, 1882, two homesteaders journeyed across the prairie driving a yoke of oxen and a wagon containing food, clothing and house-furnishings for a car-roofed home, 12 x 14 previously built of one ply rough lumber by Mr. Allan Hobson. The lumber had been brought in by Mr. Fowler.

Following the corner posts of the sections to find their own half-section, 18-4-17, they skirted a shining sheet of water, on which plenty of wild ducks were enjoying their freedom. Nearby this pretty lake on their homesteads were two homes. At the east end that of Mr. and Mrs. A. Robinson and family who provided many a good meal for hungry travellers, and on the north side that of Mr. John Williams and family. This was the beginning of the now famous town of Killarney.

As the homesteaders passed by this lake among the trees, no thought of the future came to them. They were only concerned with their own bit of land, and the tiny roof-tree they were so anxiously hoping to reach before night came. This they did, and unloaded their stove, put it in place, made a fire, had supper and started their homesteading, quite proud of their large acreage, though most everything else was small.

However, here they learned many useful lessons, and found how dependent they were upon others. Their nearest neighbor was Mr. John McKay, who with his young wife had taken a homestead two miles south of their place.

Later on, other homesteaders arrived and during part of that first winter, four of them, viz: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Cuthbertson, Mr. A. Squires and Mr. F. Squires lived together in one little house. Sometimes for a little change, they had a bit of bread baked by the wife of the homesteader, who had contrived to bring such a possession with him, but most of the time they were dependent on their own cooking. It would be hard to say which they enjoyed most, the cooking or the eating. Both were done in a way that only a pioneer of those early days knew anything about. Their next neighbors were three more men, Johnny Martin, Charlie O'Neil and Arthur Reynolds, who brought them books and magazines.

Our first taste of Pelican lake fish weighing about ten pounds was brought by Johnny Martin. For this dainty dish we had no salt, as our supply had run out, and we were in the grip of a very cold spell. Never mind, we had some fine meals without the salt for which we longed so much, as well as many other things without which we had

to do, in that never-to-be-forgotten first winter which was cold, so cold.

After a while another homesteader arrived. He and his good wife and baby girl, now Mrs. W. J. McKnight of the old neighborhood, came to live with us, and the gladness that came to our small home will never be forgotten. The companionship of others made our world new again and especially after not having seen a woman's face for three months. These homesteaders brought their mail. The end of February is a long wait for Christmas mail, but it was very welcome even then.

With the welcome company of this little family the memorable first winter soon ended and on March 25th., 1883, the first baby boy in Township 4, Range 17, now W. A. McKnight of Killarney, gladdened the hearts, and little home of Mr. and Mrs. H. McKnight.

Hullett District

MRS. T. M. CHRISTIAN

The commencement of settlers in what is now known as the Hullett District commenced in the spring of 1881, when two brothers, Peter and Alex Finnen homesteaded on 34-3-16. They came from Ontario to Emerson, which was the nearest railroad, in July of the same year. Mr. J. S. Gale settled on sec. 30, coming out from England in March 1882. Allan Hobson and Charles Fowler sr. came from Seaforth, Ont., and took up 28 in May. Agnes, (now Mrs. Pete Finnen) and Charles, son and daughter of the latter followed. For a year she and Miss Stephen (Mrs. J. Wilson) were the only girls around. Mr. Geo. Beacom also came the same year and settled on 22, where he still resides, at the present time, the only remaining early settler.

In March 1883, Mr. Hobson's family, consisting of the mother and seven daughters, in May the remainder of the Fowler family came, also Mr. William Crawford and family moved up from Pilot Mound and settled on 20. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Johnston came over from the Tisdale district and settled on 30. Mr. Dobie from Ontario settled on 22, and Mr. Hicks, and Lee came out from England and settled on 18.

The writer can recall one rather amusing but unpleasant experience to Mr. Hicks who one cold winter day, 35° below, was wending his way to Pelican Lake bush with oxen and sleigh for wood, sitting reading the newspaper and his nose frozen.

In 1884, Mr. Geo. Beacom went to Brandon to meet his future wife, she having the honor of being the first bride in the district. In 1885 the railway came to Killarney. 1886 the first regular Methodist service was held at the home of Mr. Chas. Fowler. Rev. W. E. Elliott, as minister, other local preachers assisting being Messrs Fairhall and Magwood, service continued there until the school was built.

In the early times Mrs. Fowler was to be found at many a sick bed for miles around and was very often sent for before medical assistance was called. Word of illness in any home was sufficient to cause her to saddle up the old white pony, often in the middle of the night and ride miles over practically unmarked prairie on her mission of helpfulness and service.

Other early settlers were Messrs. Wm. Mitford, W. Shaw, A. Shaver, Chas. Fowler and Geo. McCulloch.

Hullett school, built in 1892, so named because several of the early settlers came from Hullett township, Ontario. The first board of trustees consisted of Messrs Peter Finnen, A. Shaver and Geo. McCulloch.

The teacher was Miss L. Benyon, who is now Mrs. V. Thomas, a well known writer, other early teachers were Mr. Mearns, Miss Blackwell and Miss Latimer, now Mrs. R. Staples, whose husband was an early settler.

Several years after the school was built, Messrs W. Day and J. Leslie bought land and settled. The nearest land office in the early days was at Deloraine and several of the first settlers walked from their homesteads and back to file on their land.

Up to 1885, Brandon was the nearest railroad.

Pioneering in Northcote

W. J. SCHNARR

On May 29th, 1882, a party consisting of James Dempsey, Fred Finkbeiner, J. W. Atkinson, Henry Cann, Andrew McNamee and myself left Crystal City to locate homesteads. We had a yoke of oxen, a plow, stove and provisions for a few days. Our destination was Moose Mountain.

The spring of '82 was very wet, what bridges had been constructed previously had in many cases been washed out by the floods that spring. Getting stuck in sloughs was a frequent occurrence. The streams had to be forded. I remember crossing the Badger at Cartwright. The water was quite high and when in the middle of the stream the drawbolt broke, all hands had to get down and push. Needless to say, we all got soaking wet. We arrived at A. J. Rollins, at the east end of the bay on June 1st. After looking around at some vacant lands we headed for Deloraine the next day. We got a list of lands in 4-20, north west of where Boissevain is now. The land did not suit us, so we came back to Oak Lake, as Killarney Lake was then named. After tramping over many miles of country, Mr. Dempsey and Fred Finkbeiner located on Sec. 24-3-17. The first settlers in this district came in in 1881. They were Chas. Richards and a Mr. Rumble who took up Sec. 16-3-17. (Mr. Rumble was the father of Maud Rumble, the only girl of marriageable age in the locality). E. J. Calloway and his brother, George, and John Whiles on Sec. 14. Reeve Brown occupies the Calloway farm now. George Haacke located on Sec. 22 and so did Paul Cleave. Later Paul disposed of his rights to one of the McCool brothers who arrived in '82 and then Paul located on his present farm in 1882.

Settling in the district that year were one of the McCools, on 20, Wm. and Andrew Riddell on 10, Ed. Lilley and Mr. Wesley on 32, John Rigby and Ralph Vipond on 30, Joe Hammell on 26 and John McCorquodale on 23. The following year Angus McQueen sr. and Wm. and A. D. Johnson arrived. In '84, John Ditchfield, John Cameron and J. W. Smail took up their residence all on 28. Wm. Hodgkin, and Ed. Mitford came in '85. A Mr. Miller bought out Mr. Haacke sometime in '86 or '87. There may have been others but I can't recollect them now.

Along the lake John Sydney O'Brien, land guide, Mr. A. J. Rollins, Mr. Williams and Mr. Gates located in '81. The next year the Moxleys, Davids, W. S. Hysop, Geo. Moule, C. Bate, Archie McCorquodale settled in the township. Along the correction line east, James Drysdale and David Hysop located their homesteads in the fall of

1881, went east that winter and returned with their families in the spring of 1882. Others in that vicinity in 1882 were Geo. Tudhope, J. G. Smith, Josia Maycock, Mr. McNeil, Pete Phillips, followed in 1883 by Mr. Daly sr., Archie Hamilton and Harry Anderson.

The nucleus of what is now the town of Killarney was formed when Mr. A. J. Rollins opened a store in an addition to his house on his farm across from the end of the bay early in March 1883. The goods were freighted in by ox teams from Brandon. It took six days to make the round trip. In 1884, A. J. and Frank Rollins built a store just across the road on the north bank of the bay. The same year John McLeod opened up a blacksmith shop and Mrs. Dufty built a boarding house.

Until the Northcote school was built there was not much social life in that community as a district. Mr. Chas. Richards' was the headquarters for the settlers on the west side where they were always heartily welcomed by Mrs. Richards. We on the east side associated more with the people east and south. After the school was built in 1886 it was made the centre of entertainments, etc. The old timers will remember how Jim and Steve Stephens and Mrs. Machon used to make the rafters ring with their songs, one particular favorite being, "Gold, gold gold, I love to hear it jingle." We had a debating society in which Archie and Bill Johnson and Gerald Rigby took prominent parts. Religious services were held in the school soon after it was built. Among the first preachers were Rev. Wm. Elliott and Rev. Mr. Lowry. Sunday school was also conducted. The late Mr. Frederick Fairhall was mainly instrumental in starting it, and was superintendent for a good many years.

In some notes that I have kept of my first year here (1882) I find entries like this: "went down to A. J. Rollins to church." Mr. Dempsey went to Wm. Crawfords to church." "Rev. Mr. Gordon. Presbyterian student, (Ralph Conner) called here today."

Northcote School

During the winter of 1884-85 the question of forming a school district was being discussed. A number of informal meetings were held. Finally a meeting was held at the house of Paul Cleave on May 15th, 1885 when the organization was completed. At that meeting, George Haacke was chairman and W. J. Schnarr secretary. Paul Cleave and John McCorquodale were elected trustees, and a third whom I can't remember. Mr. Angus McQueen, sr., was elected trustee in February 86. The first trustee meeting was held at the house of John McCorquodale on Monday, May 25th, '85, at which W. J. Schnarr was appointed Secretary-treasurer.

The name originally intended for the school district was "Maple

Leaf". This was rejected by the Board of Education as there was already a district by that name. A second name was submitted which was also rejected, for the same reason when the trustees in desperation asked the Board of Education to suggest a name which had not been taken up. They suggested "Northcote". This, meeting with the approval of the trustees was adopted.

There is a little history in connection with the name "Northcote". 1885 was the year of the half-breed rebellion in the Northwest. When spring opened on the Saskatchewan river the military authorities equipped the small steamer "Northcote" as a miniature battleship to steam up the river and relieve some of the northern posts, hence the name.

The contract for building the school was let in the spring of 1883 to Mills Bros., who were erecting a number of buildings in Killarney. The building was completed before the first of July of that year. The contract price was \$440. for the whole building without equipment. The first teacher was "Tommy" Atkinson, later for many years C. P. R. Agent at Manitou. He was followed by Geo. B. Monteith, who finished the '86 term and taught in '87. Jesse Poole followed in 1888. A. D. Johnson in 89 and 90. Other teachers over 25 years ago were Miss Kinsley, T. O. Webster, Miss Little, Arthur Hobkirk, Miss Lily Hobkirk, Miss Wilson, (now Mrs. Schnarr) Miss Rena McKinnon, (now Mrs. (Dr.) Ernest Monteith), Miss Watson, Mr. Tufts, Miss Dolly Williams, (now Mrs. Tripp) and Arthur Williams.

The children between the ages of 4 and 16 in 1885 were Mary Dempsey, Kate McCorquodale, Maggie Campbell, Ella Dempsey, Will Dempsey, Alex Dempsey, Alex McCorquodale, Joe and George Calloway and George Cleave. The following year John and Laughlin Cameron, Norah Cleave and Ettie McKenzie were added. In 1887 Wilbert Worden, Milly, Mary and Mabel Worden became residents. New names added in 1888 were Alex McFalls, Willia Hodgins, Harold Borland, Geo. Miller, Wesley Hodgins, Mary, Esther and Ethel Hodgins, Esther McFalls, Jennie McCorquodale. In 1889, Charles Hodgins, Austin Calloway, Rebecca Hodgins, Mary Cameron and Edith Mitford's names appear for the first time on the school census returns.

There are 24 names of children 5 to 14 on the 1889 returns and of these only 3 remain in the district and only 3 more live in the vicinity.

Huntly and Glendenning

REMINISCENCES OF WILLIAM CUMMINGS

The district of Huntly was named by Mrs. Wm. Easton from Huntly Brae, Scotland, who has gone to her last resting place twenty-five years ago.

To begin with, I landed in Emerson Sunday, May 14th, 1882. I started out to walk to the Marrinhurst plains but was overtaken by a commercial traveller from Montreal, driven by a young man by the name of Joe Saddler. I came from the little village of Durham, Chateaugay valley, Que., now a nice thriving town called Armstown. Quite a number of the Killarney residents came from the same place, the Coulters, of Wakopa, Cowans, Weirs, McGills, Fasburgs, Travers.

I accepted a ride from the traveller and we arrived in Calf Mountain that night after a drive of fifty miles. Many times the horses were so deep in mud and water that it was hard to tell whether they were swimming or walking. We were forced to tie our horses outside that night and managed to get the comfort of a bed on the floor for ourselves. The next night we reached Pilot Mound, here our ways parted and I got a ride from there with R. S. Thompson, at that time a resident of Marrinhurst Plain.

The first house to be seen as we came out of the Pembina Valley was that of John A. Wilson. The old house has long ago been replaced by a new one and is still occupied by his youngest son, James. There I was only four miles from my destination, the home of my uncle, John Cumming, who landed on the Plain the year of '79. He afterwards sold his place to Mr. Jas. Fraser of Pilot Mound and moving, west to the Huntly district, where he still lives, now in his eighty-eighth year.

Among the pioneers of the district I might mention Wm. Stark, John O. Bell, David Maxwell, who turned the first furrow in that district, Jock Cumming who has resided since the fall of eighty on his present site, also Wm. Maxwell and Jim Graham.

I have attended picnics and dances in Huntly district where the crowd had gathered from as far west as Glendenning and east to Glenora, altho' the only means of travel at the time was oxen.

The first school was built in the spring of 1887, the lumber being hauled from Glenora by John Cumming, a distance of thirty miles, assisted by any neighbor who had a team of horses. The first teacher was Miss Kate McPhail, long gone to rest.

The only families attending were those of Wm. Easton, Lancelot Williamson, David Maxwell and John Cumming.

George Cramer of Baldur was our first thresherman, with a horse-power outfit. He threshed from John Wilson's on the east as far west as Cameron's at Tisdale. The threshing lasted all during the winter months, with the thermometer registering anywhere from twenty-five to forty degrees.

Our grain when threshed had to be hauled to Pilot Mound or Gregory's Mill to be ground, a distance of thirty or thirty five miles. Our first wheat was marketed at either Manitou or Brandon, fifty or sixty miles. The price paid for our wheat was not very encouraging but hope was high in the hearts of the people at that time.

Our first saw-mill was built at Rock Lake by John Montague with Wm. Price as Montague's engineer. Mr. Price still lives in Baldur.

The names of Poe Nechin, of Neelin and John Harower, who is still clerk of the municipality of Argyle should be mentioned with the pioneers.

I remember seeing T. J. Lawlor in his store in Tisdale before Killarney was started. The first time I visited Killarney, Mr. O'Brien was the only resident down by the lake.

I now make my home in Belmont, my wife having passed away five years ago.

Tisdale

BYRON MASON

The writer arrived at Emerson about the 25th of March 1881 after a somewhat slow and tedious journey from Halifax via Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, then via Toronto, Chicago, St. Paul and Milwaukee, Pembina and Emerson.

After staying a day or two in West Lynne to secure an outfit consisting of a yoke of oxen, sleigh and numerous other articles, we started west with two set of sleighs (my brother meeting us here). The objective being Pelican Lake, about 130 miles. Our party consisting of my two brothers, Harry and Jack, the latter having travelled from the Old Country with me, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Stephens their son, Will and the writer.

Passing through the Mennonite villages and coming by way of Calf Mountain, Nelsonville, Dead Horse Creek (at which place was a store kept by one Asher by name), through Crystal City and Pilot Mound (the old sites), crossed the Valley at Wilson's, through the Marrinhurst district, and so on to Pelican Lake to the house of Mr. H. Knight, on the west side of the lake. This house had been built during the summer of 1880, Mr. Knight bringing up his family that fall, consisting of Mrs. Knight and family of three, two sons and one daughter, who had been living recently in the Morden district.

This was the only house west of the lake, hence a stopping place for all travellers, and I think he was the first homesteader west of the lake for a good many miles. Mr. John Moir was also living in the valley, the late Mr. A. Henderson residing with him during the winter of 80 and 81 and who had a homestead on the hill overlooking the Pembina River. The Cameron Bros., Hugh and Dougald, having come during the winter, staying with Mr. Knight, they homesteaded section 2 and which afterwards became the site of the town of Tisdale.

Several settlers came in during the summer among whom I might mention, F. Butcher, W. Folliott, E. Douglass, J. S. Gale and the Finnen Bros. This summer was chiefly taken up with building houses and stables, putting up hay, and some breaking was done.

All mail had to come through the Post Office at Marrinhurst, 25 miles east and there being no regular courier it was carried by any one who might be passing east or west. During 1882 more settlers began to arrive, among whom were J. Johnston, J. Wilson, J. J. Moir, T. Hamilton, R. Freeborn, James and Joseph Clements, E. Moore, E. Mason, James and Thomas Freeman and D. Robinson, also F. Armstrong and Boucher, the last two settling in Glendenning valley and building a house and store, also putting up and operating a saw mill

close to the west bank and not far from where W. Thompson's present house and barn are now situated. This mill was run at intervals for a few months, or until the supply of logs gave out, the mill gang consisting of Charles Cummings as engineer, Harry Williamson as sawyer and the writer acting as tail sawyer, handling the finished product. It was mostly custom work that was done, at least I never heard of any being exported.

The house above referred to is still standing, the store having been moved and now is part of the home of R. Olver, Boucher owning that land at that time.

J. Moir and P. Finnen built the first bridge across the Pelican Lake outlet during this summer. The C. P. R. having surveyed their South-Western line through this district, and every one expecting to have a townsite of their own, little else was talked about. But it was the Cameron Bros. who did more than talk, they, with the help of T. P. Murray, real estate man of Winnipeg, surveyed the town site of Tisdale on the West half of section 2-4-16 (so named after the chief engineer who surveyed the line), this having settled the question of where the town would be, activities commenced on all sides, a large house of logs being built, the bringing of a portable saw mill, overland from Brandon, one Thomas, of Milford (on the Souris) opening up a large general store in a frame building of about 8 foot walls, being covered with a tent, with F. Corley in charge.

T. J. Lawlor also built a frame two-storey building, in which one could buy almost anything from a "needle to an anchor." Also, one Rogers (of Crystal City) built a store, but which was later burnt down. E. Machon built a house and shop in which he carried on a blacksmith's business for some time. The proprietors of this site had not overlooked the comfort and necessity of the present and future generations seven acres being surveyed and laid out for a public park and recreation ground. The spiritual needs of the community being administeed to by Mr. Cairns of Marringhurst, and the Rev. Mr. Stewart of Crystal City, (who later became Dr. Stewart) who preached several times at the home of the writer. Mr. Armstrong of Glendenning also held services (Anglican), about this time and most of 1884. The Rev. C. N. Jeffreys, of Clearwater being the first Anglican ordained minister to preach in that house, June 7th, 1885, having monthly services.

I think I will mention a rather amusing incident in connection with a service held at Tisdale. A young bachelor of the district decided to go to church that morning, remembering that his syrup can was empty, took it along to have it filled, and presented it at one of the stores, remarking that he would like to have it ready to take back

after the service. The weather being cold and the store keeper having a few minutes to spare, placed the can under a 56 gallon hogs-head and turned on the tap, intending to turn it off before leaving for the service. Being one of the main singers and a leader of the choir he made haste to be at the service in time for the opening hymn, service being held in the boarding house, he forgot all about the tap. All went well until the last hymn, when half way through the first verse, he remembered the syrup. Having no music at that time, he held the key to the situation, and each verse was faster and faster, and the congregation wondered why the haste. Needless to say, he did not stay for the Benediction, but left quietly by a back door making the quickest time he had ever done, for the store. However, he found things not too bad, the bachelor got full measure, and the floor got some, but I do not think the loss was very serious, but it was a good joke around town and country for some time. The store keeper referred to is now a resident of Killarney.

During the winter of 1883 rumors began to circulate that the C. P. R. had changed their plans, and would take a more southerly route, which eventually proved to be correct, the reason being stated that it was too expensive to build a line up by the Glendenning Valley. That may have been so, but the opinion of the writer is that by so doing, they hoped, at that time, it might be the means of cutting off competing lines from the south.

However all rumors were set at rest as they began to grade the present line from Manitou which had been the end of the track since 1882. The steel being laid through Killarney the fall of 1885 and Deloraine the next fall. From this time the town of Tisdale began to fade and the boom was over. T. J. Lawlor dismantling his building and moving it to Killarney, Mr. P. Finnen and the writer handling the contract in February 1884. The blacksmith's house being moved to section 3, where he combined farming with his business for awhile, later moving to Killarney. And now that the railway and townsite had been definitely settled, people turned their attention to improving their lands, by breaking more land and drawing out wood and logs for building purposes from across the lake, and each spring saw the erection of many new buildings. As they were always built by having raising "bees", it was the place where one would hear the latest gossip, good natured chaff and jokes, some having a special gift that way, while the supply seemed to be limitless.

Recreation we had in various forms, picnics in summer and dances at any time. The writer remembers a 1st of July at the house and grove of Mr. Knight, all kinds of games, races, etc., being on the programme, a race for oxen making the fastest time, ridden by the

owner, also one for the slowest ox under the same conditions, and all kinds of foot races for old and young, jumping of all kinds, throwing the hammer, tossing the caber, etc. Dancing was indulged in by both young and old, as there were no school houses or community halls they took place in private houses, people coming from far and near. Among those from across the lake, one remembers the names of Wanless, Hall, Thring, Williamson, Maxwell, Daniels and others. It was never too cold to go to a dance, people coming any distance would do so in daylight, and leave in daylight.

About this time a post office, Glendenning, was established at the house of J. Moir, Mr. Fraser of Pilot Mound acting as courier. This office remained in the valley for a year or so, or until Mr. Moir moved to Virden, when it was transferred to the house of Mr. Knight, later the mail was brought in via Killarney, J. S. O'Brien having the contract. In those days people thought nothing of walking, some of the women going almost every week for the mail, both to the valley and later to Mr. Knights, sometimes carrying a plow share as far as the blacksmith's. I have known my old neighbor, Mrs. Stephens to do so.

There were several ways of travelling, one had the choice of either a wagon, red river cart, stone boat or a hay rack, all of which the writer has seen used, and with oxen as the motive power, which though slow, one might generally depend on getting to their destination, unless the mosquitos were bad, which was often the case. The writer has seen oxen so covered with them it was hard to tell what color they were, and if space would permit, I could tell of many exciting times I have experienced. At the same time I still have quite a lot of respect for the oxen of the early days, for as a rule they were hard working, patient beasts, easily kept, and did a lot of hard work in opening up this settlement and others. The first harvesting that was done was cut with a cradle, then followed the reaper, and later the self binder.

The first threshing was done by hand power (flail). Robinson Bros. of Cartwright operated the first horse power machine, which had no straw carriers and when threshing near a building would take about six men and a boy to keep the straw away.

McCool and Richards operated one later of a more modern type, although both threshed into bushels, the bushel man keeping tally by pulling a string through a hole in a board, a knot on each end for every bushel he emptied. This method often caused rows and arguments. J. Stephens operated the first steam outfit.

Of all the houses that the writer assisted in the raising of, only two are occupied at the present time, the Butcher Bros. are still liv-

ing in the house built in 1881, and Guy Compton is living in one that T. Hamilton built on his homestead in 1883, both are built of oak logs. Of all who came to this district in those early days, none are on their former homesteads now, except the writer, Mr. P. Finnen having moved to Killarney last year, the rest having passing on to that place from which no one returns.

Of the events that took place during the first ten years of this district, which is as far as this history deals with, I might mention: R. Freeborn's death, who was instantly killed from the kick of a horse near Mr. Knights, as he was going to the bush on the 23rd of January 1889. The death of Mrs. T. Hamilton in January 1889. The death of E. Douglas, during the winter of 1886. The death of Mr. Johnston, father of Joseph Johnston, in June 1885. The death of F. Corley, who was killed at the Tisdale saw mill 1883. All of these with the exception of F. Corley (who I think was taken east) were buried on a point of land on section 12 overlooking the lake, three of them have been re-interred.

Of the public buildings since that time are: Tisdale school house in April 1895, and the Anglican church in 1903, the Rev. W. R. Johnson, who had been holding services in this district for several years, being in charge.

Recollections of Early Days at High View

A. E. BARNARD

Mr. George Crawford came out from Exeter, Ont. to Emerson in 1880 and walked from there up through this country. There were no settlers in this district at that time. He looked around for two months then went to Ontario and came out again the next spring bringing some horses with him. He sold all of them, parting with the last team at Fifteen Mile Village for a yoke of oxen, these he brought to Crystal City and left them there. Then he, James Moir and Peter Low set out to look for land, they walked on up to Deloraine, only to find that the land they had already picked on was already taken. They returned to Crystal City, got the oxen and again made the trip to Deloraine, this time they were successful in getting the land they had chosen. Mr. Crawford got out logs, hewed them and built a house and stable then went to Crystal City and helped his brother-in-law to take off his crop with a cradle, returning to Ontario that fall.

William Crawford, my father, came out in October 1881, walking from Emerson and on to Deloraine and took up the first homestead in what was to be the High View district. Mr. Stewart Foster and Mr. Edward Hall came into this district the same fall. My father stayed at his brothers and got logs for a house and stable. He and two Mr. Moirs bached there all winter. In March 1882 my uncle, George Crawford returned with his own and our household effects, my aunt with three little ones, also my mother with three, and my uncle Mr. Robert Monteith, with three other gentlemen who come at this time.

There had been very little snow all winter, but just as we arrived in Emerson, it commenced to snow. Father met us at the station, accompanied by John Downie, my cousin, who had come to drive a team. They got a house for us all to stay in for three days while they made a pair of sleighs and got ready to start. By the time we left Emerson the snow was deep, we travelled in a covered sleigh, stopping two nights on the way to Crystal City at Mennonites, who were very kind doing all they could for us and wishing to take very little in return.

At Crystal City, the storm came on in earnest and for two weeks we stayed with friends. Coming from there we stopped all night at Cartwright and at noon on the 1st day of April at a stopping house kept by Mrs. Wm. Finlayson at Pancake lake, landing in the evening of that day at my uncles.

On the 11th of April we, father and family, Robert Monteith and George Kilpatrick, moved to a little shanty on 24-2-17, belonging to Mr. Hall who had gone away for the winter. From there my father could work at his buildings without crossing any creeks. That was

the year of the flood. I remember Stoney Creek ran full almost to the top of its banks. One of Mr. Monteith's oxen got down in one of the creeks and was drowned. As soon as he could have a look around, he walked up to Deloraine and homesteaded the south-east of 10-2-17, which he afterwards named High View. My father broke five acres that spring and planted oats and potatoes. The oats he carried nine miles on his back on account of the swollen stream.

Mr. Forster and his son Tom came in about this time and took up land north east of us. Mr. John Stewart settled on the west half of ten. He was a brother of Rev. Andrew Stewart of Winnipeg. He had a pet hobby of gathering jack knives, of which he had a large number, and many of the children around the neighborhood had toys, whittled out of a piece of wood by him with those knives in the long winter evenings. Mr. Canniff and his son Fred came in and settled on 22, building a shanty right on the line and each had his bed on his own homestead. Mr. Frank Rollins and his nephew, A. Rollins came out on the same train we did and settled on 14-2-17.

I think my mother must have baked bread nearly every day as she did it for every one in the neighborhood until August, when my aunt, Mrs. Monteith came out when she gladly shared the work with her. Mrs. Monteith and family came to Brandon, her brother, Mr. John Kilpatrick coming with her, his wife and daughter coming out the next July. With five more to swell the ranks, we children certainly enjoyed life. Though we had some lessons to do each day, for the most part we studied the great out of doors. Mr. Forster called us his little Prairie chickens.

In 1883, Rev. Andrew Stewart started services in our house, his field was from Crystal City to Deloraine. One time he was asked to go to Cartwright to marry a couple. On the way he got stuck in a creek, got his buggy broken. There was no blacksmith nearer than Crystal City, and after the wedding, the bridegroom gave him a dollar.

On a clear morning you could hear hammers ringing on plough shares as they tried to keep them as sharp as possible themselves. I remember of the men taking turns walking down to Crystal City with a bag of plow shares on their back.

Mr. Hall came back and brought his wife and daughter to stay with us until he got his place fixed a bit. Mr. George Crawford went down to Emerson and coming back, met in with a Mr. Robinson and his daughter. One of their horses was played out, he helped them, and as they had taken land in the High View district, they came on together. Mr. George Robinson, a son, afterward married Miss Ella Williams and moved into Killarney, and Miss Robinson married Mr. Elliott, a

young minister, who came to take part of Mr. Stewart's field. They afterwards went to Japan as missionaries.

At first we got our mail at Crystal City, forty miles away, then at Wakopa, then Smith's Hill and afterward, Killarney.

Mr. George Kilpatrick and his daughter came from Ontario in 1885.

High View school started in 1886, Miss Annie Kilpatrick was the teacher, and as we had no building to start in, school was held for a while in Mr. Robert Monteith's kitchen. The children on the roll were Ernest, Herbert, Helen and Euphemia Monteith, Emma Sandes, Emma Hall, Mary, Dinia, Rennie, Ourioa and Rose Anna Vandal, John, James, Tommy and Ernest Monteith, Edith, Annie and Lillie Crawford. Mr. Stewart was school inspector and we were all very pleased to see him again.

We had had a minister of our own church (Presbyterian) preaching for some time. There had been a Mr. Fraser, Mr. Cameron and Mr. C. W. Gordon, all students. Mr. Gordon had moved his preaching place so as to reach more people, and at the house in which we had service a hen used to lay in the house on the bed. One Sunday she was on her nest at church time, the lady of the house took off her apron and laid it over her. But brave Biddy got up in the middle of the sermon and proclaimed to all the house that she had layed an egg.

I remember some rides we had. One Sunday we had the oxen and stoneboat to go to church, a box was placed on it for mother and aunt to sit on, father and Uncle Robert walked beside the oxen, sometime some of us children were on the stoneboat and sometimes running along side. My uncle, Mr. John Kilpatrick and Mr. Caniff had Red River carts, and they were very sociable things to ride in, as the wheel shrieked all the while and sometimes the rim would come out and we would get a swift ride to the ground.

There used to be a great many prairie fires. One night, two Mr. Chapmans and a Mr. Rankin moved their threshing machine to our place to thresh in the morning. There was a fire away to the south west. The men thought it could not cross the creeks but mother kept getting up and watching it. At last she woke father, and they called the others. They harnessed a team and turned everything out of the stables, drew the machine onto some plowing and then prepared to fight fire. There were already fire breaks, they back-fired from them and fought fire with pails of water and bags the rest of the night. While we were watching from the window, we could see the flames leaping as high as the top of the stacks, but they kept it back so that nothir at our place was burnt. But many others were not so fortun-

ate. Stewart Foster lost nearly everything and others lost feed, buildings and grain stacks. In 1888 a hail storm came through the High View district, most of the crop was cut down, our fields looked as if they had been ploughed. Then in 1889 it was so dry very few had enough for seed the next year.

Mr. Robert Monteith was elected councillor for his ward and not long afterward was elected reeve which office he held for quite a number of years.

These notes would not be complete without mentioning Mr. Lowery, our Irish minister. He took up a homestead near High View. Glass Water Farm, he called it. He used to call at the school and ask us what his text had been the Sunday before, talk to us a while, then give all the children a ride who were going in the direction he happened to be taking. He used to say his buckboard could carry five men and a plow when there was a prairie fire.

Mr. Whyte one of our ministers used to type his sermons and send them out, if it had been too stormy for him to get out on the Sunday, and he got us children to write our Sunday School lessons and send them to him, during the winter when we had no Sunday School. He also typed a little paper which he called "Word and Work."

One bright autumn day seven of us girls went nutting, we each had a sack and as the hazelnuts were fine that year we all got our sacks full. But we were over a mile from home and however would we get our nuts there. When we came up out of the creek there were our oxen feeding. It only took a minute to catch old Bright. Edith led him home by a horn while the rest walked, some on one side, some on the other, holding the sacks to keep them from sliding off his back.

NAMES OF EARLY SETTLERS NOT INCLUDED ON MAP

1880	John J. Moir	S. 14-4-16
1880	Russell H. Fox	S. 6-2-18
1882	Charles McClue	E. 30-1-16
1882	James McMullen	E. 36-1-16
1881	James W. Johnston	S. 32-1-17
1880	William S. Yule	W. 4-3-17
1881	Paul Vandal	S. 34-1-17
1882	Robert O'Brien	W. 17-2-16
1882	W. J. Cowan	S. 36-1-18
1882	Thomas Forster	W. 20-2-16
1882	Mathew McNeil	W. 26-2-16
1882	Augustus Taylor	W. 22-2-16
1882	George Reynolds	E. 22-2-16
1881	Peter McPhilips	S. 4-3-16
1881	William Daly	W. 6-3-16
1882	John Upton	W. 24-1-18
1881	John S. O'Brian	W. 9-3-17
1882	Peter Duffy	E. 26-2-17
1881	Thomas McCool	W. 22-3-17
1881	Robert McCool	E. 20-3-17
1881	Thomas Rumball	E. 16-3-17
1882	George Haskett	E. 22-3-17

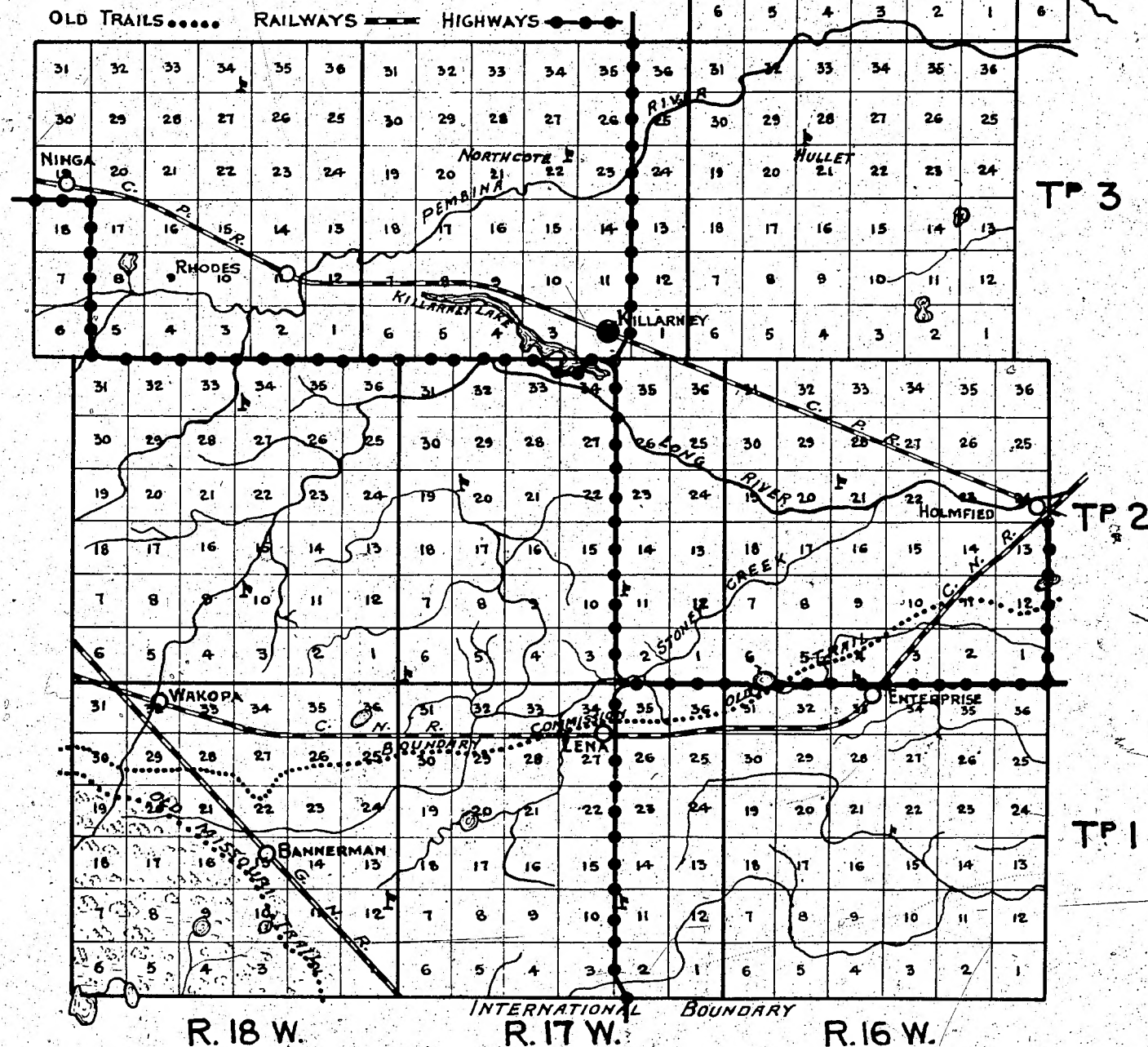
LIST OF EARLY PIONEERS

YEAR.	NAME.	LOCATION.	YEAR.	NAME.	LOCATION.
1879	R. Cowans	29-1-18	1881	W. Chapman	34-2-18
"	B.B. Larivière	30-1-18	1882	J. Chapman	" "
"	F. Young	21-1-18	"	J.B. Brown	30-2-18
"	C. Young	28-1-18	"	J.H. Magwood	24-2-18
"	A. McGill	" "	"	J. Desjardine	" "
"	N. McGill	" "	"	G. Culver	26-2-18
"	C. Guerin	16-1-18	"	W. Weir, Senr	12-2-18
"	J. Johnson	10-1-18	"	R. Weir	" "
"	W. Johnston	" "	"	T. Richardson	14-2-18
"	J. Ayres	" "	"	Miss Reeves	" "
"	D. Allen	2-1-18	"	J. Axford	16-2-18
"	J.A. Rowson	" "	"	Milo Harris	" "
"	J. Stewart	" "	"	Jas. Gordon	18-2-18
"	P. Demers	1-1-18	"	Rob. Gregory	" "
"	P. Scott	22-1-18	"	Mr Benoit	2-2-18
"	J. P. Alexander	Tnp. 1. R. 18	"	P. Martin	" "
"	J. Whiton	" "	"	Don. Young	4-2-18
"	D. Grant	" "	"	Jas. Sharpe	" "
"	J. Coulter	" "	"	Geo. Ferguson	36-2-18
"	John Moir	32-3-15	"	Syd. Holland	" "
"	T. A. Sharpe	20-1-18	"	Jas. Schelp	" "
1881	Mr McKengie	S. 6-3-18	"	W. Willoughby	2-3-18
"	R. White	6-2-18	"	C. Willoughby	" "
"	J. Stevenson	" "	1886	Thos. Hilton	4-3-18
"	W. McKay	10-2-18	"	David Chapman	6-3-18
"	Alex. Rankin	20-2-18	1881	C. Richards	16-3-17
"	J.M. Rankin	22-2-18	"	J. Whiles	14-3-17
"	J.J. Rankin	" "	"	F. Butcher	32-4-16
"	G. Gregory	20-2-18	"	W. Douglas	28-4-16
"	D. Harris	28-2-18	"	J. Williams	2-3-17
"	O. Martin	" "	"	Geo. Geates	" "
"	G. Wilson	30-2-18	"	Sam. Hossack	34-2-17
"	H.&S. Jones	32-2-18	"	John Saunders	20-2-17
"	Alex. Ross	" "	"	Geo. Crawford	28-2-17
"	D. Cullen	22-1-16	"	J. A. Barber	4-1-17
"	C.S. Finlayson	6-1-17	1882	Sam. Kissick	30-1-15
"	W. Finlayson	7-1-17	"	Robt Monteith	10-2-17
"	Don. McInnes	1-1-18	"	Jas. Finlay	28-2-17
"	John Stenart	10-2-17	"	Thos. Fry	16-2-16
"	William Shaw	16-3-16	"	Wm. Fry	8-2-16

The publishers are indebted to Mr. J. M. Baldwin, Killarney for his cooperation in the preparation of the above list, and which they hope will be found as complete as the case demands.

MAP OF KILLARNEY DISTRICT PAST AND PRESENT

1880 — 1930



LIST OF FAMILIES WHO SETTLED IN 1881 and 1882

NAME.	SEC.
F. FINKBEINER	24-3-17
J. HAMMILL	26-3-17
H. KNIGHT	12-4-16
M. COCKREILL	14-2-16
C. BATES	4-3-17
F. LINSEY	20-2-17
WM. VIBOND	30-3-17
JN. RIGBY	" "
Ed. LILLEY	32-3-17
W. WESLEY	22-3-17
Wm. Hysop	20-3-17
Wm. NICHOL	16-2-16
Wm. HARRISON	30-1-17
Wm. MONTEITH	6-2-16
Th. M. BURNEY	28-1-16
HY. ROWSON	4-1-17
H. DANGERFIELD	12-1-18
G. BERCOM	22-3-16
P. FINNEN	34-3-17
W. SHAW	16-3-16
J. JOHNSON	8-4-16
J. CLEMENTS	1-4-16
Jos. CLEMENTS	" "
BYRON MASON	4-4-16
D. CAMERON	2-4-16
ALLAN CAMERON	" "
ED. MACHON	3-4-17
JAS. WILSON	15-4-18
Geo. CAMPBELL	" "
JNO. STEPHENS	32-3-16
ALEX. HENDERSON	6-4-15
J. KILPATRICK	12-2-17
WM. CRAWFORD	12-2-17
R.S. FOSTER	2-2-17
E. J. HALL	" "
AR'D ROLLINS	14-2-17
F.S. ROLLINS	18-2-17
JOHN CHRISTIE	30-2-17
ANDY M'NAMEE	" "
HENRY CANN	32-2-17
PETER LOWE	35-2-17
ROBERT MARTIN	" "
A. J. ROLLINS	35-2-17
S.J. KELLAWAY	" "
J. K. SMITH	36-2-17
J. DRYSDALE	" "
JAS. DALY	6-3-16
R. J. HAMILTON	30-2-16
H. ANDERSON	6-3-16
DAVID HYSOP	31-2-16
WM. CRAWFORD	20-3-16
DAVID CLUFF	24-3-16
CHAS. FOWLER	28-3-16
ALLYN HOBSON	" "
ANGUS M'QUEEN	34-3-17
JOS. ATKINSON	" "
W. J. SCHNARR	36-3-17
ED. MITFORD	" "
R. J. WHYTE	16-2-18
JOHN RANKIN	36-1-18
ROBERT NAY	26-3-18
WILLIAM NAY	20-3-18
JNO. DITCHFIELD	28-3-17
J. W. SMALL	" "
JNO. CAMERON	" "
RICHARD MOXLEY	6-3-17
JAMES MOXLEY	" "
AND. RIDDELL	10-3-17
WM. RIDDELL	" "
Geo. MOULB	12-3-17
J. ATKINSON	" "
MANLEY GALLAWAY	14-3-17
PAUL CLEAVE	15-3-17
JAS. MILLIKEN	10-1-16
HARRY HUNTER	1-3-17
AND. FOSTER	5-2-16
P. S. BRYAN	32-1-17
J. MELVILLE	24-1-18
Geo. SHIRE	6-1-18
SAM. FORSTER	30-2-16
ROB. CHURCH	16-1-17

Prepared for the Publishers.—THE KILLARNEY GUIDE